

## Maine Continuum of Care

December 21, 2017

Mark R. Swann  
Preble Street  
38 Preble Street  
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Mark:

Please accept this letter of endorsement for the grant application being submitted by Preble Street for the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

The Maine Continuum of Care (CoC) continually strives to enhance collaborative efforts to end homelessness throughout the state. The Preble Street SSVF Program addresses a critical problem in the State of Maine. Maine has among the most veterans per capita in the nation and poverty rates that exceed other states in the region, clearly leaving many veterans with limited income and resources. SSVF will enable Preble Street to serve homeless and low-income Veterans and their families to receive comprehensive case management, assistance with VA and public benefits, and other supportive services needed to move towards or keep permanent housing and a better quality of life.

Preble Street has been a partner in providing a continuum of services to persons and families in need in Maine. This letter confirms that Preble Street Veterans Housing Services is a participant in the Continuum of Care coordinated entry system planning and implementation efforts, including a common process for accessing homeless assistance services from prevention, diversion and emergency shelter to transitional housing, rapid re-housing, supportive services and permanent supportive housing. Preble Street Veterans Housing Services has participated in collaborative community planning efforts through active and regular participation on CoC Committees and working groups, including the CoC Board of Directors, Steering Committee, Resource Committee, Veteran Committee (Chair), and the CoC Coordinated Entry Pilot Project. It is estimated that Preble Street Veterans Housing Services staff contribute between 20-30 hours/month on CoC planning efforts and the development and implementation of the CoC's Coordinated Entry system, which will go into effect in 2018.

With a partnership that addresses housing, financial, and treatment issues in a comprehensive and cooperative system, the SSVF Program is a model for meeting the needs of homeless and low income Veterans throughout the nation. For this reason, the Maine Continuum of Care supports Preble Street's SSVF renewal application, and will continue to work cooperatively to provide program referrals as well as available housing and other social services through our partnering agencies. This project is vital to addressing the needs of homeless and low-income Veterans in the state of Maine and we will collaborate with Preble Street to enhance its Veterans' services.

Sincerely,



Vickey Rand, MCOC Co-Chair



Rob Parritt, MCOC Co-Chair



Awa Conteh, MCOC Co-Chair